

Our Purpose

To examine Arizona Special Education State Board 401 rules, to propose rules that are clear, instructive, and aligned to the IDEA, and to provide guidance for implementation.

Core Team

Kristina Blackledge
Advocate & SEAP Member

Angela Denning
Arizona Department of Education
Deputy Associate Superintendent

Craig Carter
Director of Special Services
Washington Elem School District

Mollie Casson
ESS Director, Kingman Unified

Jan Cawthorne
Executive Director of Special
Education, Mesa Public Schools

Wendy Collison
Director of Special Education
Glendale Union High School District

Elizabeth Conran, Chief Academic
Officer, The Menta Group

Sarah Gamble
Director of Special Education
Primavera Online High School

Kristen Hartsuff
Director of Special Education
Glendale Elementary School District

Lorrane McPherson
Treasurer, AZCEC

Kimberly Peaslee,
Parent & Chairperson of CAC & SEAP
Member

Heidi Sinkovic
Director of ESS, The Leona Group

Chris Tiffany, Raising Special Kids &
SEAP Member

Our Group Norms

- We engage in active listening
- We seek to understand
- We strive for a collective impact
- We honor the communication plan
- We support working for the greater good
- Our communication is timely and accurate
- We use rubrics to evaluate our work
- We need to learn and “unlearn”
- Reflection is critical to our success

Consensus--A two tiered approach:

The Core Team will work toward unanimous consensus on every issue. If not a unanimous consensus the group will use a supermajority vote (11/13).

Rule Committee – Core Team December 15, 2014 Communiqué

Core Team Attendees: Sarah Gamble, Beth Conran, Craig Carter, Mollie Casson, Christopher Tiffany, Jan Cawthorne, Kristina Blackledge, Wendy Collison

ADE Support Staff: William McQueary, Lisa Aaroe, Maura Mall

Meeting Location: ADE ESS 3300 Central

To provide input and feedback: AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov

**You’ve got to think about big things while you’re doing small things,
so that all the small things go in the right direction.**

GOALS for Today: Continue work on the IEP section revisions.

What we did:

- We reviewed feedback from the field via the ESS Inbox.
- We discussed the SLD subcommittee and reviewed the list of those who have voiced an interest in participating.
- We reviewed the IEP section of Utah’s Special Education Rules and those of other states to gain different perspectives. The group discussed rules and other states in comparison to current AZ rules.
- The committee discussed extensively whether additional clarification is needed in the AZ rule on the topic of expected outcomes and when an IEP team should reconvene. Discussion centered on the current rule R7-2-401 (G.6) and that IEP teams often do not meet when expected progress is not being made. The committee sought to clarify to IEP teams that meetings should be triggered due to lack of progress, not just at the annual due date.
- The committee discussed current rule R7-2-401 (G.4) and determined that greater flexibility is needed for teams to make determinations on which providers can provide the specialized instruction that the student needs.
- The team discussed meeting notice requirements and whether a rule was needed. The team determined that it will not propose a rule in this area.
- The team discussed alternate assessments and the requirements for eligibility to participate in alternate assessments. The committee discussed this in the context of the newly adopted state assessments. IDEA is clear on participation of students with disabilities in state assessments and the eligibility to participate in these assessments as set by the state.

What we learned.

- In our discussion, we found that flexibility exists in LRE/placement determinations in IDEA allowing for a group of knowledgeable people other than the IEP team to determine LRE/placement for students. A further review of IDEA and commentary is needed to determine if/how this will affect proposed changes to rules.
- The group discussed the format and language of the Utah rules and agreed that this format may be beneficial in the development of a guidance document.
- The ADE will be releasing a guidance document on substitutes in special education and long term substitute teachers around the beginning of 2015, which will offer guidance on the provision of specialized instruction by substitutes.
- IDEA is very clear on meeting notice requirements.
- IDEA also discusses requirements for transfer students with disabilities.

What we accomplished.

- **Revised Most of IEP Section rules, upholding the original intent of the committee to clarify and simplify the AZ Rules**
- **Made recommendations for guidance documents and training needed in the field in order to improve practice.**

Notes:

Rule Making Core Committee December 15, 2014 Communiqué

Next Steps:

- Review IEP Revisions
- Finish IEP section revisions
- Meet with Audra Ahumada on alternate assessment requirements
- Begin the next section
- Get update on SLD Subcommittee
- Start to plan for next large group meeting

We Want to Hear from You!

Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov. We look forward to hearing from the community at large, Key Advisors and Extended Partners on our work to date and future agenda items. These documents along with key documents are posted on the Director's Corner at:

<http://www.azed.gov/special-education/category/directors-corner/>.

Notes: